

# Discover industrial tourism in Panevėžys!



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PANEVĖŽIO PLĖTROS AGENTŪRA **WW**

The team of Panevėžys Development Agency invites you to a trip along the history and the present of Panevėžys industry. Industrial tourism is a rapidly growing tourism trend in the world, presenting industrial production and events. This trend includes visits to existing companies and industrial heritage sites, offering visitors an experience of products, manufacturing processes, applications, and history. Works of art and performances can be enjoyed at the industrial heritage sites as well.

Panevėžys is famous for its industry and invites you to discover the city off the beaten track! The oldest industrial company in the city, Kalnapilis, is the only company in Lithuania that has never stopped producing beer since its establishment, and the former soap factory with one tank was making as much as 3,000 kilograms of soap per day. Over time, and as circumstances change, some places previously used for industry are now opening their doors to culture as well.

In 2020, UAB Aukštaitijos Vandenyys organised the exhibition Face of Water and provides educations in its underground reservoir.

The Aukštaitija narrow gauge railway organises excursions, educations, tastings, and celebrations on a regular basis.

The trend of industrial tourism in Panevėžys is developing rapidly and we hope to soon offer you more interesting experiences. In this publication you will find the most interesting industrial objects of Panevėžys. We invite you to get familiar with them more closely, read about their history and see them with your own eyes – in the Pamatyk Lietuvoje platform and in the Walk15 app you will find routes of industrial tourism in Panevėžys.



## Flax factory, S. Kerbedžio g. 23

After the World War II, L. B. Chazenas bought the premises of the former company Mechanikas for the future flax factory in Ukmergės Street. The factory was buying already rippled and retted flax from farmers, and already sorted flax was delivered to the factory from flax sorting stations. The production facilities of the factory in Panevėžys were situated in various places at Kęstučio, Margių, Ramygalos, Pušaloto streets. Although the establishment of this factory helped to solve women's unemployment. Working conditions for women were hard: the soaking workshop was cold and damp, and the workers in the threshing rooms had to work in the dust that were settling on the walls, equipment, clothes and faces.



## Soap factory, Staniūnų g. 1

Soap production at the Panevėžys soap factory started in 1933. A total of 3,000 kilograms of soap was produced per day in one tank. Soap making tasks were done by hand. Demand and production of products was growing rapidly, and the factory did not limit its product range to soap. The factory also had units for other products where the wheel grease and high-quality shoe polish were produced.



## **J. Masiulis bookstore, Respublikos g. 21**

Juozas Masiulis bookstore in the centre of Panevėžys is the oldest Lithuanian bookstore in the country. After the lifting of the press ban in 1905, the book smuggler J. Masiulis took advantage of the opportunity to open the bookstore legally. In the interwar period, it was the cultural centre of the city, the founder of the bookstore was famous as a patron, and a public figure. In this building you will see two works of art which survived to this day – the portrait of J. Masiulis painted in the pre-war years and the painting of Vytautas the Great that decorated the bookstore between the wars.



## **Vilnies printing house, Bataliono g. 5**

It is the oldest printing house in Panevėžys. In 1935, after the auction of Naftalis Feigenzonas printing house, the Vilnies printing house was opened in the same place, on Bataliono Street, with the same equipment. As the newspaper Panevėžio Garsas wrote in the 1935, 2 printing machines, a knife for cutting paper, a font and other supplies were purchased at about 1,200 litas by several Jews. The house no longer stands on Bataliono Street, only its wall remains.



## **Bank with sculptures of Atlanteans by J. Zikaras Respublikos g. 56**

The beginnings of banks in Panevėžys appeared in the second half of the 19th century. The construction of the bank building began in 1930. On 1 January 1931, a contract was signed with Juozas Zikaras for the creation of 12 sculptures and 2 ornaments in this building. 12 sculptures of Atlanteans and a rosette were created in the lobby of the bank, as well as an ornament with Vytis on the facade of the Respublikos Street. Interestingly, the first payphone in Panevėžys was installed in the bank building in 1932.



## **Narrow gauge railway, Geležinkelio g. 23**

From the old time, the railway has been one of the most important means of transport, opening the way for the industry development, and Panevėžys can be confidently called the city near the historic Narrow Gauge Railway (often referred to as “Siaurukas”). The construction of the narrow gauge railway in Aukštaitija started in 1891. Initially, it carried various cargoes, but soon it also carried passengers. However, over time, its normal functions began to weaken and in 2001 it ceased to function as a means of transportation and a historic-tourist train was established instead.



## Glass factory, Pramonės g. 10

The construction of the current company Panevėžio Stiklas, a former glass factory, began in 1961. Its first production was sheet glass, made in March of 1965 on four 2 m wide vertical glass drawing machines. Later, other glass products were launched, glass blocks in 1966, glass finishing tiles in 1972, glassware in 1974. The goods were exported to Egypt, Jordan, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Cuba, Kuwait, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Tunisia, and the Federal Republic of Germany.



## Ekranas factory, Elektronikos g. 1

Ekranas company, which operated in Panevėžys from 1962 to 2006, was one of the largest companies in Lithuania and one of the major manufacturers of colour CRTs in Europe. The years 1980-1985 were particularly successful for Ekranas: the sales of the factory's products almost doubled, and the number of employees increased 1.12 times. Almost every family in Panevėžys is still connected with this giant factory in one way or another. For many, Ekranas was a former school of life: the people met here and created families, and some spent their youth there.





## **Canned food factory, Kranto g. 12**

A red-brick building on the bank of the Senvagė river is a former Canned food factory – a typical 19th-20th century building, an example of industrial architecture. Although this building is well known as a Canned food factory, before that it was the Panevėžys bottling plant of the state vodka monopoly. The canned food factory was established here only later. Because of food shortage in post-war Panevėžys all the most needed products were produced here. These products were then transported to people using horse transport.



## **Meat factory, S. Kerbedžio g.**

One of the city's largest production companies of the first half of the 19th century – Panevėžys meat factory – opened in 1931 as a joint-stock company Maistas. It was one of the largest companies in the city in terms of the number of employees. A great deal of attention was paid to improving their working conditions and promoting a wide range of leisure activities. Now the buildings of the factory have been demolished, except for the canteen which is still operating.



## **Roquette Amilina, J. Janonio g. 12**

For a number of years, Panevėžys was considered the largest grain grinding centre in Lithuania. Abundant wheat harvests were produced in the fertile lands of Panevėžys district, and in 1875 the railway was built across Panevėžys, creating favourable conditions for the development of industrial grain grinding. The origins of the current Roquette Amilina company date back to 1841, when B. Rubinšteinas of Jewish descent established the first modern industrial mill here. He processed more than five million poods of wheat a year, and at the end of the 19th century, flour was transported to Riga, Liepaja, Warsaw, St. Petersburg, and Moscow by the Liepaja-Romnai railway built across Panevėžys.

## **Sugar factory, Įmonių g. 22**

The sugar factory in Panevėžys operated from 1940 to 2008. For the first ten years after its construction, it was the largest company in Panevėžys: the factory complex consisted of 22 buildings, and at the technical level and production complexity no other company in Panevėžys at that time matched this factory. The capacity of Panevėžys sugar factory was 100,000 tons of beets per season. The production process was taking place anywhere: outdoors, in the underground, in dirty beet preparation workshops, as well as in the sugar boiling facility and product department premises, without special plumbing conditions; moreover, workers were exhausted by the temperature differences and high humidity.





## **Kalnapilis, Taikos al. 1**

Kalnapilis Brewery is the oldest company in Panevėžys and one of the largest breweries in Lithuania, successfully operating since 1902. The brewery was founded by Albert Foigt, a German landowner, thus it originally had the German name Bergschlosschen (“a little castle on the hill”). Prior to the establishment of the brewery, 8 thousand buckets of vodka for 62 thousand rubles were consumed in Panevėžys per year. The establishment of a brewery was expected to reduce the consumption of spirits.



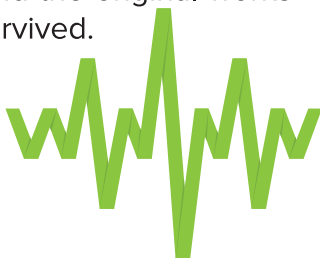
## **Spirit factory, Respublikos g. 82**

The spirit industry in Panevėžys began as early as 1890, when the landowner of Troškūnai, Stanislovas Montvila, established a yeast and spirit factory in the era of sobriety proclaimed by Bishop Motiejus Valančius. This factory was making alcoholic beverages, yeast, carbon dioxide, household chemicals, and cologne. At the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, about 70% of the spirits produced here was exported to Kazakhstan, Latvia, and other countries, and about 30% was used for medicines, vinegar, alcoholic beverages, and perfumery in Lithuania. At the beginning of the 21st century, more than 100 workers, including children, worked hard 13 hours per day for a small wage and in exceedingly difficult conditions.



## Čičinskas inn, Ramygalos g. 43

Have you ever tasted the famous Panevėžys steak called Čičinskas? This dish is so popular in Panevėžys that it even has a restaurant of its own name – the Čičinskas inn – where Čičinskas steak is the star of the show. The restaurant was built around 1890. The architecture of the building has not changed to this day and the original works of blacksmiths have survived.



## Restaurant Žara, S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g. 4

The legendary Panevėžys restaurant Vakarinė Žara to this day surprises people with its unique interior, and the walls of the building will tell you many interesting stories from the past. The restaurant opened its doors almost four decades ago and was probably the most luxurious restaurant in Lithuania. At that time, the elites of the whole country would gather here. The place was also frequented by Lithuanian presidents, who enjoyed its menu. The restaurant spaces are dominated by red, and the interior of the restaurant, reminiscent of the seventies, has been preserved to this day.



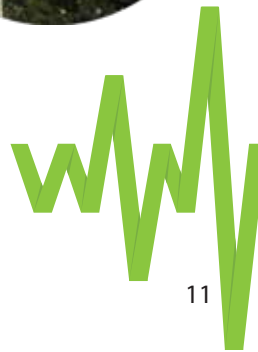
## Windmills, Ramygalos g. 111A

The windmills that have survived to this day were used to grind grain for the residents of Panevėžys city and district, but during the Soviet era they were closed and abandoned. In 1988, the reconstruction of the mills began. The plans included the establishment of a station for young technicians, a school observatory, and a nature department at the local ethnographic museum, but these plans were not implemented. One of the mills still has a dome of the observatory erected on top of it, and the reconstruction of the second mill was started only in 2011 – building walls were renewed and wings connected.



## B. Rubenstein mill building , Kranto g. 24, Panevėžys

It was the first industrial mill in the Baltic States owned by a private individual, B. Rubinstein of Jewish descent. The mill, famous for its capacity, it is mentioned by historians as one of the most modern mills of the time: 3 shifts worked per day which milled 2 wagons of wheat. Favourable conditions for the development of the city's industrial milling were created after the construction of the Liepaja-Romnai, Radviliškis-Daugavpils railway branch running through Panevėžys in 1873. Railway was a convenient mode to import wheat from Ukraine and after milling export it to Riga, St. Petersburg, and the port of Liepaja.





Panevėžys Development Agency is a team starting a new phase of work, with the aim of discovering and disclosing the potential of the Panevėžys region. Improving business and investment conditions, promoting tourism development, creating the city's image, and raising awareness – all efforts are brought together under one roof to help us convince others to invest, expand business, start travelling, studying, or working here in Panevėžys.

The goal of the agency is turning Panevėžys to a competitive city, famous for its advanced industry, talented and gifted people, and exceptional tourism objects.

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